

SBARA's Groundplane

October 2007 Volume 8 Issue 10

The monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Association

DX QSL'ing — By Mike Studer, K6EEP

Here is a simple version of how to get QSL cards from DX stations. This can get quite involved but for new hams I thought this might be useful. I prefer QSL cards that actually came from foreign countries. Sending postcards to far away lands can get quite expensive. So hams have come up with something called Bureaus. aka buro on CW. There are two main types of Bureaus, incoming and outgoing. Lets start with the outgoing Bureau and that process. Lets say you have talked to a lot of foreign countries and want QSL cards from them. You would fill out a QSL card for each one. Then you box them all up and send them to a single address, which is called an outgoing QSL Bureau. The outgoing QSL bureau charges a fee but it is way cheaper than sending all those cards to all those countries individually.

The outgoing Bureau boxes up all the cards for a country, say Germany, and sends one box to the German incoming QSL Bureau.

Which leads us to the next phase, incoming Bureaus. The ARRL has

incoming QSL Bureaus for each call district. You do NOT have to be an ARRL member to use them. We are in the sixth district Bureau. You would send the incoming Sixth District Bureau a bunch of pre-printed mailing labels for you. And send some money, say \$20, for their postage and envelope costs. That's the way they prefer it. When they have a pile of cards for you they will mail you an envelope full of QSL cards!

I hope this helps you figure this all out. It takes time to get your cards. Months sometimes. But the excitement when you get your first pile of DX cards is a fantastic feeling. Now you just have to get on the air and work some DX.

Mike K6EEP

Here are some web page links:

Incoming ARRL Sixth District Bureau

<http://www.kqlz.com/qsldbureau6/>

Outgoing QSL service (this is the one I use there are others)

<http://www.qsl.net/wf5e/>



Join your fellow SBARA Hams for dinner at 6 PM Friday evening. We'll meet at Chili Garden on Walnut Avenue. This is a great way to learn about some really cool products and overall good discussions!!



Halloween 2007



Treasurers Report — Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

I had some excitement this month. Our PO box would not open any more when we tried to get our mail, and after asking the post office clerks we were told that the SBARA had not paid the fee for renewal.

Well, that was odd - and I could quickly prove that the SBARA *had* paid. As a matter of fact the box is due every January, and I had of course kept the receipt. Which was good, because now the post office had to admit that they had made a mistake.

This does not help us much - the box had quickly been given to a new owner, and the SBARA has lost box #8377. The post office told us that we can continue to use #8377 on our QSL cards, business cards, letters etc, the mail going to this box addressed to us will be redirected to our



new box #8401. The new number should be used on new printed material, the web site and in the Groundplane - however there is a small chance that the new owner might agree to swap boxes. So let's wait and see. We will know next month.

Other than that: our financial status is in a nice shape. With the money just received for our help at the Zucchini festival 2006, we have a very good cash situation. We are currently spending quite some money for next year's field day antennas: I'm really looking forward to our new 15m, 20m and 30m phased arrays. What we tried during the field day this year was just phantastic. There will be some leftovers we will put onto a savings account.

73!

Bernhard, AE6YN

More APRS

My APRS article in the last Groundplane issue yielded an unexpected amount of good resonance: several people wanted to know more about my APRS setup. I will show it on the Homebrew Table during our next meeting. I will also try to show a very low cost version which can be used with any 2m radio - I'm

however unsure whether I can put it together in time. Let's see.

This second approach does not require an APRS capable radio. Instead it uses a product by Byon Garrabrant [1], the TinyTrak 3 Plus. This nifty device is available as a kit for less than \$40, together with a EverMore

GM900 (introduced in my previous article) you can make a ~\$70 APRS device you can connect to your handheld. Add a battery holder, and off you go...

Bernhard, AE6YN

ae6yn (at) arrl (dot) net

SBARA CW Practice Group — Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

SBARA CW Practice Group

Dear CW enthusiast (or prospective enthusiast),

There was an accident during preparation of the last Groundplane issue. Some information was mixed up and we listed incorrect dates and frequencies for our CW schedule. The correct data for our CW practicing is every:

Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Sunday, 4 p.m.

on

21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

We will slow down for you, don't be scared away if somebody is really fast there! Just send a „bk“ and your callsign, we will adjust to your skills. We will also be able to listen to and to send SSB, usually we do some short chat in SSB at the end of our practice rounds.

Looking forward to meet you on 15m!

Isaac, KI6DIL, Amanda, AF6YL, AI, WT6K and I would be happy to meet you, too!

Bernhard, AE6YN

ae6yn (at) arrl (dot) net

ARES/CERT Events — By Jeff Koger, KG6NEB

Upcoming ARES/CERT events will be discussed including the Saturday October 6 CERT Family Picnic, Saturday October 13 SET drill, Sunday October 14 ham cram class and Wednesday evening October 17th Class 6 drill.

**More APRS —
Bernhard
Hailer, AE6YN**



Happenings — By Adam Feriante, ND6N

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Event Name / Description</u>	<u>Website</u>
October 12	SBARA Meeting	www.sbara.org
October 14	Ham Radio Study & Exam Session—Washington West	
October 19-20	Pacificon 2007—San Ramon	www.pacificon.org
November 4	Transmitter Hunt - Fremont	www.thunt.org
November 4	Daylight Savings Time Ends—Livermore Swap Meet	www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html
November 10	SBARA Meeting—Officer Elections	www.sbara.org
November 17	Transmitter Hunt - 5PM Foxes Choice	www.thunt.org
December 1	Transmitter Hunt - Fremont	www.thunt.org
December 2	Livermore Swap Meet	www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html
December 7	SBARA Holiday Dinner-At the Veterans Hall in Niles	www.sbara.org
December 15	Transmitter Hunt - No T-Hunt	www.thunt.org
December 25	Christmas	
December 29	Transmitter Hunt - Pack A Lunch?	www.thunt.org
December 31	SKN—Straight Key Night	www.arrl.org
January 11, 2008	SBARA Meeting—First meeting of the New Year!	www.sbara.org

ARES Repeater Information

We recently have been contacted by an Alameda County Water District representative about use of ACWD UHF repeater. Fremont ARES wants to encourage everyone to utilize the

441.125 + PL100.0.

The site in the Coyote Hills will make it an ideal repeater to hit locations in the Fre-

mont Hills formerly inaccessible to VHF/UHF traffic. At a future date we hope to officially include it in our emergency communication plan after negotiations are complete. Come and join us!!

Jeffrey Koger

Fremont EC

KG6NEB

KG6NEB@ARRL.NET

**South Bay Amateur Radio
Association**
Founded 1974
Mailing Address
Box 8377
Fremont, Ca. 94537-8377
Web Site — www.sbara.org

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Vice President

Adam Feriante, ND6N

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DL4MHK

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Refreshments

Amanda & Isaac Feriante
AF6YL and KI6DIL

Board Members at Large

Lloyd Hartshome, N6DOK
Sam Severs, WS6S

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2

K6AIR - 146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0

K6AIR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

CW - Tuesday, 8 p.m. and Sunday, 4 p.m.
on 21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

The [South Bay Amateur Radio Association](http://www.sbara.org) is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training for

new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at the Veterans Hall in Niles (Fremont), California. The meeting begins at 7:30

PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

For those who would like to upgrade their licenses, here's an alternative testing opportunity. The Silicon Valley VE Group has scheduled regular test sessions every alternate Saturday morning at the HP facility in Cupertino. The ARRL site shows the following info for this Saturday, information:

Sponsor: SILICON VALLEY VE GROUP

Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: MORRIS E JONES
(408)507-4698
Email:
AD6ZH@ARRL.NET
<mailto:AD6ZH@ARRL.NET>
VEC: ARRL/VEC
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing/vecs.html>
Location: HEWLETT PACKARD
19333 VALLCO PKWY
BLDG #2
TESTS START BETWEEN 8-10:30AM

MAP N37 19.490
W122 00.568
CUPERTINO, CA 95014

In addition, these sessions are planned every two weeks through at least the end of May (March 17, April 7, April 21...).



Club Classifieds

**List your items
for sale or trade
here.**

Let other club members know about the gear you wish to sell, trade, need, etc. Send your info to BB.Arrl@WB9YVM before the 15th of each month to get it in the next month's newsletter. Limit your classified to 25 words or less. Ham Radio, Computer, or electronic related items only please. Listings are posted for 1 month, resubmit for additional months. Listings are first-come-first-serve, limited to space available. We reserve the right to edit content.

Ready Set Go!! — By Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

Dear SBARA Friend,

On October 13th, 8:00 a.m., Fremont will carry out an SET. SET stands for Simulated Emergency Test, it is actually a nationwide program hosted by

the ARRL; October is the month of SETs [1].

Fremont CERT and ARES will use this opportunity to find out where in the city we may have problems to reach the net control or district stations.

Volunteers are welcome to help us finding this out.

You always wanted to know what CERT radio amateurs do once called to an emergency? You considered joining CERT? This is the chance you may have waited for. Just come and see what we do, we will probably even ask you to participate. Check in on our repeater on 147.015+ Mhz and

you will be assigned to one of our district locations. - If you are already a CERT member, directly go to your District Staging Area.

Give me a call at 510 366 7205, and I will give you more details. We will also hear something about Fremont SET during our meeting on Oct 12th.

There will be a pancake breakfast after the drill!

73!

Bernhard, AE6YN

ae6yn (at) arrl (dot) net

Cell: 510 366 7205

[1] <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html>

SBARA Leadership Elections 2008

November is SBARA election month. Would you consider helping your club? Volunteer for a position.....

ELECTED POSITIONS

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURE

SECRETARY

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

WEBMASTER

EDITOR - PIO

CIRCULATION

MEMBERSHIP

RAFFLE COORDINATOR

QUARTERMASTER

PROGRAMS:

PHOTOGRAPHER

REFRESHMENTS

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

2008 Leadership Team Nominations will be taken from the floor up to 10 minutes before the election at the SBARA meeting on November 9th, 2007

ANAHEIM, CA

(Near Disneyland)
933 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA

1525 W. Magnolia Blvd, 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Eric, K6GHT, Mgr.
Magnolia between
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burbank@hamradio.com

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sandiego@hamradio.com

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phoenix@hamradio.com

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atlanta@hamradio.com

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14803 Build America Dr. 22191
(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
Steve, W4SHG, Mgr.
Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1
woodbridge@hamradio.com

SALEM, NH

(Near Boston)
224 N. Broadway, 03079
(603) 898-3750
(800) 444-0047
Chuck, N1UC, Mgr.
sales@hamradio.com
Exit 1, I-93;
28 mi. No. of Boston
salem@hamradio.com

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- APRS Compatible
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- Dx Packet Cluster
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- Ultra compact HF, VHF, UHF
- 100w HF/6M, 50w 2M, 20w UHF
- DSP included • 32 color display
- 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

Call for Low Price!**FT-2000** HF + 6M tcvr

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- DSP filters / Voice memory recorder
- 3 Band Parametric Mic EQ
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- Advanced CW functions
- 101 alphanumeric memories

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- 40 memories
- Alphanumeric display
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- "S" meter
- Auto Dialer

Low Pricing!**DR-135TP** 2M mobile

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- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!



Announcements

SBARA's monthly meeting is October 12th.

Veterans Hall in Niles

HALLOWEEN 1938: THE RADIO BROADCAST THAT PANICKED AMERICA

ON OCTOBER 30, 1938,
ORSON WELLES AND THE
MERCURY THEATRE PER-
FORMED A RADIO PLAY
BASED ON AN H.G. WELLS
STORY ENTITLED "**WAR OF**

THE WORLDS". THE NA-
TIONAL BROADCAST
CAUSED PANIC AND MASS
HYSTERIA AS LISTENERS
BEGAN TO BELIEVE MAR-
TIAN HAD LANDED IN
NEW JERSEY AND WERE
TAKING OVER THE WORLD.

The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
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